

WEST HARTFORD SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Minutes April 21, 2015

Members present: Linda Hanson, Ray Guenter, Connie Melo, Ellen Phillips, and Donna Sterling
Members Absent: Robert Kennedy, Ruth Kurien, Phillip Walker
Staff present: Susan Huleatt, Kathleen Faroni
Guests: Noreen Batchelder
Volunteer Secretary: Amy Lynn Silverman

Acting Chairman Ray Guenter called the meeting to order for 10:35AM.

The Minutes of February 17, 2015 were approved unanimously as corrected.

Ray welcomed the guests including the FastTrack representatives Barbara Bellott and Lizette Cruz.

Donna Sterling reported on the bus trip she and Phil Walker took on April 1 starting in Elmwood. Barbara Bellott traveled with them to New Britain, into Hartford and back. The terminal in Elmwood has a flat platform and there is WIFI and a PA system on the bus. There are automated passenger counters. A rider pulls a cord to request a stop. While there are dedicated lanes in some areas, city streets are also used. The goal is 16,000 riders daily by 2016.

Barbara Bellott spoke about CT Transit's goal of promoting mass transportation so that seniors can remain active. The fare is \$.75 each way for seniors. An ID is not necessary. Barbara indicated that better signage is needed to prevent cars from driving in the bus lanes. Route maps will be made available at both Senior Centers...

Lizette Cruz is a planner with CT Transit. She indicated that routes are being added and some stops will be changed. The process is ongoing. Parking is free but limited.

It was suggested that each Senior Center arrange to have CT Transit Customer Service Representatives on hand once a month for individual sessions with potential riders.

Senior Job Bank

Jim Doran submitted the following written report. A brokerage account has been opened into which \$40k will be transferred. The final guidelines for communicating to the Service Providers and to the Customers have been received from the attorneys. These include the responsibilities and obligations of each as they relate to one another. "Need Help" efforts are being increased in anticipation of spring and summer needs. A new Board member has been elected, bringing the total to 8.

Human Services

Susan Huleatt reported that energy assistance is still available until May 1. The Rent Rebate application period is open until Oct. 1. Appointments will be available at both Senior Centers starting June 1. Also, people can sign up on line at WestHartfordCT.gov. Celebrate West Hartford is June 6 and 7. Human Services, the Senior Centers, ITN and the Senior Job Bank are collaborating on a booth called West Hartford Seniors.

Town Council

No report

Senior Centers

The reports are attached.

Ray reminded the members to print out and review the draft of Complete Streets which is the commitment by the town that all projects take into account the needs of all citizens including seniors, disabled individuals, bikers, and pedestrians.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45PM.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19 at 10:30am with Margaret Murphy, the Associate Director of the Center for Medicare Advocacy.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Lynn Silverman
Volunteer Secretary